



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
43rd session  
Agenda item 5

MEPC 43/5/2  
14 December 1998  
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**CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS  
TO MANDATORY INSTRUMENTS**

**Amendments to the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships  
Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code)**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**SUMMARY**

<b><i>Executive summary:</i></b>	This document sets out proposed amendments to the BCH Code. These amendments were approved by MEPC 42 and circulated under cover of Circular letter No. 2099 of 27 November 1998.
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	Paragraph 4
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	MEPC 42/22, annex 3 and Circular letter No. 2099

**Introduction**

1 The Committee will recall that, at its forty-second session, it considered and approved the proposed amendments to the BCH Code (MEPC 42/22, paragraphs 2.13).

2 The proposed amendments were circulated by the Secretary-General of the Organization, in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of MARPOL 73/78, under cover of Circular letter No. 2099 of 27 November 1998.

3 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventieth session, considered and approved the same amendments to the BCH Code.

**Action requested of the Committee**

4 The Committee is invited to consider the proposed amendments to the BCH Code, annexed hereto, with a view to adoption in accordance with article 16(2)(d) of MARPOL 73/78.

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**ANNEX****RESOLUTION ... (43)****adopted on ... July 1999****AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT  
OF SHIPS CARRYING DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN BULK (BCH CODE)**

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

RECALLING Article 38(a) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the function of the Committee conferred upon it by international conventions for the prevention and control of marine pollution,

RECALLING ALSO resolution MEPC.20(22) by which it adopted the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code),

NOTING article 16 of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the "1973 Convention") and article VI of the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the "1978 Protocol") which together specify the amendment procedure of the 1978 Protocol and confer upon the appropriate body of the Organization the function of considering and adopting amendments to the 1973 Convention, as modified by the 1978 Protocol (MARPOL 73/78).

NOTING that the Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventieth session, considered and approved the proposed amendments to the BCH Code,

NOTING FURTHER resolution MEPC...(43), by which the Committee adopted relevant amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code),

RECOGNIZING the need to bring the amendments to the BCH Code into force on the date on which the relevant amendments to the IBC Code enter into force,

HAVING CONSIDERED the proposed amendments to the BCH Code circulated in accordance with article 16(2)(a) of the 1973 Convention,

1. ADOPTS, in accordance with article 16(2)(d) of the 1973 Convention, amendments to the BCH Code, the text of which is set out at annex to the present resolution;
2. DETERMINES, in accordance with article 16(2)(f)(iii) of the 1973 Convention, that the amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on [1 January 2002], unless prior to the date, not less than one-third of the Parties or the Parties, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50 per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet, having communicated to the Organization their objections to the amendments;
3. INVITES the Parties to note that in accordance with article 16(2)(g)(ii) of the 1973 Convention the amendments shall enter into force on [1 July 2002] upon their acceptance in accordance with paragraph 2 above;

4. REQUESTS the Secretary-General, in conformity with article 16(2)(e) of the 1973 Convention, to transmit to all Parties to the 1978 Protocol certified copies of the present resolution and the text of the amendments contained in the annex; and
5. REQUESTS FURTHER the Secretary-General to transmit to the Members of the Organization which are not Parties to the 1978 Protocol copies of the resolution and its Annex.

## ANNEX

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BCH CODE****Chapter II Cargo containment**

- 1 The following new paragraph 2.14.3 is added after the existing paragraph 2.14.2:

"2.14.3 The controlled tank venting systems as provided in paragraph 2.14.2 above should consist of a primary and a secondary means of allowing full flow relief of vapour to prevent over-pressure or under-pressure in the event of failure of one means. Alternatively, the secondary means may consist of pressure sensors fitted in each tank with a monitoring system in the ship's cargo control room or position from which cargo operations are normally carried out. Such monitoring equipment should also provide an alarm facility which is activated by detection of over-pressure or under-pressure conditions within a tank. Ships should comply with the requirements of this paragraph by the date of the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 2002, but not later than 1 July 2005. However, the Administration may approve relaxation of this paragraph for small ships of less than 500 tons gross tonnage."

- 2 The existing paragraphs 2.14.3 and 2.14.4 are renumbered as paragraphs 2.14.4 and 2.14.5.
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